

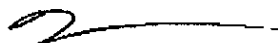
In re: Sumakeris et al.
Serial No.: 10/017,492
Filed: October 30, 2001
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REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' attorney, David Beatty, during the telephone conference of January 16, 2004. As discussed during the telephone conference, the present amendment to Claim 1 serves to clarify the scope of the invention claimed. The amendment does not expand the scope of the claim and, therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no additional search or examination is required and the claim remains patentable. The amendment is now presented because Applicants, upon reviewing the claims of a counterpart application, became concerned that the original claim may inadvertently be read on structures or embodiments of the cited references or other art not intended to operate or function in the manner now more clearly recited. Accordingly, Applicants hereby request entry of the foregoing amendments prior to issuance of the patent.

Should the Examiner have any matters outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

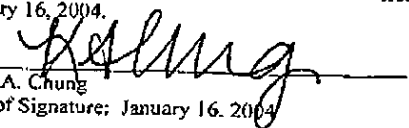


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to Central Facsimile Number 703/872-9306 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 16, 2004.


Katie A. Chung
Date of Signature: January 16, 2004